



## **CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**

### **COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** July 1, 2008

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Youth Watershed Education Program Contract With Art From Scrap

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a \$46,767.46, 12-month professional services contract with Art From Scrap (AFS) for youth and community watershed education programs in Fiscal Year 2009.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Division (Creeks Division) recommends that the City contract with AFS to provide youth watershed education programs and support the continuation of community events and programs at the South Coast Watershed Resource Center. Youth education is a key component of the Creeks Division's Public Education Plan to reduce urban runoff pollution and improve ocean water quality at the beach. With clear and engaging activities for youth and adults regarding the importance of clean water and the causes of pollution, people are able to develop an appreciation of creek and ocean water quality and adopt the appropriate behaviors to protect it.

Formerly a program of the Community Environmental Council (CEC), AFS is a non-profit organization with a primary focus on environmental education for school age children. Since 2002, the Creeks Division has implemented a youth education program for elementary age children as well as community outreach programming based out of the Watershed Resource Center. Last year, AFS educated over 1,500 students through Creeks Division programs. The proposed contract with AFS for Fiscal Year 2009 will continue an existing successful education partnership.

#### **Scope of Work**

Under the proposed contract, AFS will provide water quality education programs for school children within the City of Santa Barbara. These programs include: 1) a 3-part Creek Kids series that is targeted to fourth through sixth grade students; and 2) field trips to the Watershed Resource Center at Arroyo Burro Beach for kindergarten through sixth grade.

The AFS programs are correlated to state standards and designed to complement other Creeks Division youth education programs. Additionally, the proposed contract includes a partnership with Santa Barbara County to fund a part-time (10 hours/week) staff person to manage and administer the Watershed Resource Center.

During Fiscal Year 2009, it is anticipated that AFS will conduct 70 presentations over a 12-month period, reaching more than 1,500 school children. AFS will also staff and support multiple community programs hosted at the Watershed Resource Center. New themes and special projects will be developed in Fiscal Year 2009 to maintain an evolving program with fresh elements for teachers and students. For example, AFS will direct educational resources to after-school and summer camp programs to engage youth in richer, more long-term service projects throughout the year. Additionally, some of the displays and educational materials will be updated to reflect current trends in watershed education.

#### Regional Integration

In addition to providing watershed youth education programs within the City, AFS is under contract with the County of Santa Barbara to provide similar programs to school children in Carpinteria, Goleta, and other areas in the County. AFS will likely continue providing educational programming throughout these areas in Fiscal Year 2009. The Creeks Division recommends that the City and County continue to work with AFS to provide similar and consistent watershed education programs.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The total cost of the contract with AFS is \$46,767.46. Funds for this contract are available in the Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2009 Operating Budget.

**PREPARED BY:** Cameron Benson, Creeks Division Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office